

A
Just Reproof,

To the False

Reports, bold, & unjust Calumnies,

Dropt in two late

PAMPHLETS

The First ENTITLED,

*An Account of a Horrid and Barbarous Murder. In a Letter
from a Gentleman in Fife, to his Friend in Edinburgh.*

And the other

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*An Answer of a Letter from a Gentleman in Fife to a Noble-
man, containing a brief Account of the Barbarous and Ille-
gal Treatment, the Poor Woman accused of Witchcraft met
with, from the Bailies of Pittinweem and others.*

Prov. 10. 18. *He that hideth hatred with Lying Lips, and he that uttereth Slander
is a Fool.*

Prov. 12. 19. *The Lip of truth shall be Establishd for ever: But a Lying tongue is
but for a Moment.*

Prov. 17. 4. *A Wicked doer giveth heed to false Lips: and a Lyar giveth Ear to a
Naughty tongue.*

EDINBURGH.

Printed in the Year M. DCC. V.

THE

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

OF THE LAND OFFICE

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Just Reproof to the false Reports, Bold, and unjust Calumnies, Dropt in two late Pamphlets, &c.

THE Trifling Pamphlet we are now to take under Correction, appeared several Weeks ago. The design of it was so palpably malicious, so discernible an Air of Partiality, Prejudice and ill nature, every where breath'd in the Paper; that all Persons of Judgment, Sobriety and Candor, how different soever in Principle from the Persons Traduced, Entertain'd it with Contempt. A Paper that carried its own Confutation so plainly in its Bosom, was scarce thought worthy of an Answer. Tho' the Impudence of the Author, in abusing the World with such scandalous Untruths, and his ignorance in managing his Malicious Design of blackning the Reputations of Persons, whom he durst not fairly attack in any Legal or Allowable way; by an Account of Matters of Fact that had not a Resemblance of Truth, were judg'd worthy of such a Reproof, as the Wise Man informs us, is proper for Fools. But the Author of this Pamphlet being either enraged by this Contempt, or growing bold because he met with no Opposition, has Impudently obtruded upon the World a second Impression of it, with Additions, of the same Temper and Alloy with the first Paper; since no Body thought fit to Answer his Letter. He has Bless'd the World with an Answer of a Letter Stuff'd with more of the same Dirt that filled up the Lines of his former Paper: Our Author and his Accomplices have no Doubt heard their Friends read them that Lesson, *Calumniare audacter aliquid adhaerebit*. Throw Dirt some of it will Stick; and they have Conn'd it well, and in those two Papers have given Evidence of their Proficiency. But lest Silence should be Constructed an Evidence of Guilt, We are now in Compliance with the Wise Mans advice, that bids us in such Cases, *Answer a Fool according to his Folly, least he be wise in his own Conceit*, Resolved to call those Pamphlets to Account for their Disingenuous Misrepresentations, Scandalous Falshoods, in matter of Fact their Malicious Insinuations, more bold Thrusts at the Reputations of Innocent Persons, and other Miscarriages of an Alike nature.

But before we take any Particular notice of this Pamphlet, it will be Necessary to Permit a short Hint of some Occurrences, that gave Rise to this whole matter.

About the Month of March last Year, on *Beatrix Layng*, a Woman of very bad Fame, who had formerly been under Process for using Charms, and Refusing to be Reconcil'd to her Neighbours, was Debar'd from the Lord's Table, came to one *Parrick Mortoun* a Black Smith desiring him to make some Nails: which he refus'd to do, because otherwise Impley'd at that time. Upon which She went off Muttering some Threatning Ex-

pressions; A little after the said *Patrick Mortoun*; with another Person in Company Carrying some Fish by the said *Beatrix Layng's* Door, they saw a Vessel with Water plac'd at the Door, with a Burning Coal in it. Upon which he was presently Strucken with an Impression that it was a Charm Design'd against him; and upon this a little after he Sickn'd. In this Sickness he Languished for a long time: Physicians that saw him, could not understand his Distemper, yet try'd Various Medicines; till at length, his trouble Increas'd and he begun to be Seis'd with some Unusual Fits, which made them give over. He forbore all this while any Accusation of the Person whom he all along Suspected for his Trouble, at least he made no mention of it to the Minister, who frequently Visited him, while under it. But his trouble still increasing, he at length began to drop some Apprehensions of the Cause of it: Upon which *Beatrix Laing* was call'd, and by the Magistrats, in the said *Patrick Morton's* Father's house, Examined in presence of a great Multitude of People; and own'd that she had plac'd that Vessel with Water, and the Coal in it there: But at that time would give no Account of the Reason of it. Being dismiss'd by the Magistrates, she went home; and that same Night when she was Challenged by *Katharine Marshal*, in her own house, before *Nicolas Lowson*, about the Lad's Trouble, she answered, That he might blame his own ill Tongue, for what had befalln him, and that it was an Evil Spirit that was troubling him: Which was in her Face maintained, by the said Persons next day, in Presence of the Magistrats. Then the Boy began to complain of her Tormenting him, and fell into grievous Fits of Trouble upon her Entering the House. Upon all which, she being imprison'd, after some time, did acknowledge to Magistrats and Minister, in Presence of many Witnesses, without Threat or Torture (of which we shall speak more afterwards). That she was displeased with *Patrick Morton* for his refusing to make some Nails; that she designed to be avenged upon him for it: And that she used that Charm of the Coal in the Water against him: And that she renounced her Baptism, entred into a Compact with the Devil, some twelve years before; Condescending upon Time, Place, and her Inducements to engage in his Service: And that she, with *Nicolas Lowson*, had made a Wax Picture to Torment him, and put Pins in it; which the said *Nicolas* likewise confessed afterwards, and so Justified the Boy's Account of the Rise of his Trouble.

After this the Boys trouble daily increas'd, in which there were many Strange things; first his Belly for some time, then his Breast frequently heav'd up to a Prodigious highr, and instantly went off again, by a blowing at the Mouth like a Bellows, frequently he cried out that such Persons as he Nam'd were Pinching him in his Arms, Breast, or some other places of his Body, his Hands lying all the while above the Cloaths at distance from one another, in the view of many of the Spectators; and when they Look'd the places of which he complain'd, they saw distinctly the Print of Nails: Again
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he was frequently cast into Swooning Fits, became insensible, which was try-
ed by Exquisite Pinching the more sensible parts of his Body, of which he
Complain'd afterwards, when he came out of the Fits, tho' he took no Notice
of them, nor felt them in the time, while he was in these Fits; the Strongest
who Essay'd to lift his Head from the Pillow, were not able to move it, tho'
both his Feet and Head were perfectly free of the Bed, which was exactly tried:
Yea sometimes while the Trunk of his Body and his head were thus Rigid, and
could not be rais'd from the Pillow, his Legs were loose, and any might move
them as they pleas'd. Sometimes these Fits were not so great as at other
times; and then, or when he was falling in, or coming out of them, several
Persons lifted him with little Difficulty: But when he was in the Depth of
the Fit, the Strongest that essay'd it could not raise him up. Again when
any of the Women whom he accused touch'd him, and sometimes on their
coming into the Room, he fell into grievous Fits of Trouble, and cried out,
That such a Person was Tormenting him, condescending on their Names:
And this he did very frequently, before Multitudes of People of different Ranks,
ready to attest the same. And commonly such Care was taken to prevent his
having any Notice, either of the Womens Entry, or which of them was there,
that there was no place left for any Rational Suspicion of Trick or Cheat in the
Matter. He was carefully hoodwink'd with several Plyes of Cloth: The
Women were brought in with the utmost Secrecy, innocent Persons present
in the Room laid their hands on him, but yet he never shew'd the least Con-
cern, save when the accused Persons Touch'd him. Several Times Gentle-
men that seem'd Jealous that there was somewhat of an Imposture in the case,
were allowed and Invited to make the Nicest Tryal, and found it hold. Se-
veral pitiful Cavils have been uled about this, and other instances of the
Boys trouble, which proceed either from Ignorance of the Circumstances of
matter of Fact, or Grois inadvertancy in not observing the several Varia-
tions of the Boy's case; which had they been considered, they would have
been so far from giving any Countenance to the Conclusion aimed at by these
Objectors, that they would strongly have Enforced a Conviction of some-
thing Præter-Natural in the case: But we forbear to enter on the Detail of
these Exceptions, because they are evidently Trifling, and Savouring rather of
prejudice against the General Truth, that there is such a thing as Witch-
craft, and the Persons who profess to Believe it, than of Judgement or an
Impartial Consideration of this particular case. Beside such as this Author
sees meet to mention shall be afterward considered,

Further, In the time of his Trouble, he told, that severals of the Witches
Tormenting him, were at their Meetings, condescending upon the time,
Place, Persons present, in which the Confessing Witches did exactly concur
with him, and Justified his Accounts.

These and many other Particulars of an alike Nature, might have been
attested

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attested by the Oaths of many Witnesses, if the Wisdom of the Government had seen meet during the Lad's Trouble, to put this matter to an exact Tryal; which all concern'd much desired, whereof they gave sufficient evidence, by their Applications to all concern'd, to grant Commission to Try the whole matter on the place.

The design'd Brevity will not allow to enlarge in giving any further Account of this Boy's Trouble, or of all Occurrences, with respect unto the Witches; Wherefore leaving this, we shall proceed to take this Pamphlet under Consideration, and begin with that part of it first Published.

In the first Paragraph, after a short hint of *Patrick Morton's* Trouble, our Author subjoins, *That this Man by his odd Postures and Fits, which seem'd to be very Surprising at first, wrought himself into such a Credit with the People of that Place; that unless the Earl of Rothes our Sheriff had Discovered his Villany, and Discouraged that Practice, God knows how fatal it might have proved, to many honest Families of good Credit and Respect; Sir, However at first many were deceived, yet now all Men of Sense are Asham'd for giving any Credit to such a Person.*

To which its Replied, 1st. As to the Boy's Trouble, we refer to the Account of the matters of Fact, just now given: and its left to unbiass'd Readers to Judge, whether Men of Sense had Reason to be Asham'd of giving any Credit to this Person, who is a Simple Boy, and incapable of managing any Imposture, and it is not easie to understand, what might be his Inducement, if he had been Capable of it, since it did so much to ruine him and his Fathers Family.

2^{ly}. Whereas our Author tells us, *That if a timely Discovery had not been made of the Imposture, it might have been of bad Consequence to many Honest Families of Good Credit and Respect.* We know no ground for the Authors fears; Its true many Reports have been blown about of Persons being Accus'd, who may come under this Character: But there was never any Ground for these Reports, for neither did the Boy drop any Accusation to Magistrats or Minister, nor the Confessing Witches ever delate any without the Bounds of the Parish of *Pittenweem*, nor any Person within the Town of any Note, or indeed any, save those who were imprison'd, and a very few others of the meaner Sort. 3. As to what our Author asserts of the Earl of *Rothes* detecting his Villany. We answer, that the Earl of *Rothes* is a Person, whom, on many Accounts we respect: But we must have better Ground than this Author's Word, before we can believe, that a Person of the Earl of *Rothes* Sense and Judgment, would conclude, from his not seeing any thing Remarkable, during half an hour, or an hours Stay. That there was nothing of Reality, in a Trouble carried on for a long Tract of Time, in a great Variety of Shapes, and which had various, and sometimes long Intermissions, during which there was nothing observable to be seen. And who can

can believe, that, if the Earl of *Rothes* had discovered any manifest evidence of the Boy's villany, that he would have gone off the place where there was most need for this discovery, to undeceive the People, who, if we may believe this Author, had been wheedled by this Rogue, into a belief of the reality of this trouble, without giving these convincing evidences which this — Pamphleter would have us believe he found. This is so manifestly unworthy of that Noble Lord, that we cannot entertain so mean thoughts of him upon so weak a ground, as the assertion of one, whose word shall be discovered to be of very little value before we have done with him. And if the Earl of *Rothes*, or any other, had offered any such evidence, the Magistrate or Minister, would have been as forward as any, to have him punished as an Imposture; besides, if any unquestionable evidence of Imposture had appeared, the known zeal and concern of that Noble Lord for the Execution of Justice, the punishment of Villany, and preventing such dangerous consequences, could not but have led him to use his utmost endeavours to have it punished in an Exemplary way.

Our Author in the next paragraph, proceeds to give us his History of *Janet Corphat*, the Woman who was murdered.

Before we take him to task, it will be needful, that we give some account of this Woman, not to extenuate the Murder, which we detest as much as he; she was a Woman of very bad fame, who of a long time was reputed a Witch, frequently used Charms, and was wont commonly to threaten persons who disobliged her, and such consequences some time followed, as made her the terror of many, both of the Town and Country, which might be verified by particular Instances if it were necessary: she was not at first delated by *Patrick Morton*, tho' afterwards he complain'd of her as one of her Tormentors: But she with some several others in Company with the Devil, whereof *Isabel Adam* was one, in pursuance of a quarrel, which *Beatrix Laing* formerly mention'd, had with one *Alexander Mcgrigor*, a Fisher in the Town, made an Attempt to murder the said *Mcgrigor* in Bed; which was prevented by his awaking and wrestling against them. This Attempt was acknowledged by *Isabel Adam*, of whose Confession a more full Account shall be given afterwards, who had been taken up on that Man's Delation, and some other Informations against her, and not on the Lad's. As likewise, the said *Janet* was accused by *Nicolas Lowson*, another Person present at that Attempt. And *Nicolas* accus'd her of being at another Meeting in the Loan of *Pittenweem*; at both which Meetings they confess'd the Devil was present: All which she herself afterwards freely confess'd.

The manner of this Woman's Confession was very remarkable. After she had obstinately some while denied, and with a subtilty beyond what might be expected, from one of her Education, shifted all questions put to her, she with *Isabel Adam* aforelaid, being brought to the House where the tormented Lad lay, and he discovering her at her entry into the Room, notwithstanding the utmost precaution was used to conceal it from him, and he falling into grievous fits of trouble,

did cry out of her as one of his Tormenters; at which she was so stunn'd, that instantly she fell a trembling. The Magistrats and Minister observing her in such a confusion, asked if she was willing to commune with them, in reference to the matters, whereof she had been accused, she declaring her self willing, went with them to another place, and when desired to be ingenuous, she again fell a trembling and said she would confess all, but was afraid the Devil would tear the Soul out of her Body if she did, and said if you will Pray, and cause ail good Folk Pray for me, I will confess, and desired the Minister then to Pray, and, after Prayer, Confessed, *she was Bodily present at both the meetings aforesaid with the Devil and the Witches, and gave a circumstantial account of the Renunciation of her Baptism, naming time, place, and inducements which led her to it, and the shape the Devil appeared to her in.* She likeways told the reason of their attempt to Murder M'greigor, was, that he did not hire a House which belonged to Beatrix Layng.

Again, on a Thursday after she had been hearing Sermon, she desir'd to speak with the Minister, and sent one to acquaint him with this Desire, on which he went to her; and she before several Witnesses, renewed her former Confession, and Condescended on all the Persons, the other Confessing Witches had Accused, as being present at the two foresaid Meetings, adding withal, that there were others present whom she knew not; This Confession she renewed before the Presbytrie, in presence of a great many Country Gentlemen, and many other Spectators, as likewise in face of a numerous Congregation on the Lord's day.

And now let us hear the Pamphleter's account of this Womans case, he tells us, *She was well guarded with a number of men, who by Pinching her, &c.* Here are almost as many Untruths, as Words, which a plain account of matters of Fact, which we offer to verify in all Points, if call'd to it, will make appear.

It is own'd, That when *Beatrix Laing* and *Nicolas Lawsen* were first Imprisoned, they were ill us'd by some of the Guard, without the Knowledge of Magistrats or Minister, of which the Woman made Complaint to the Minister, whereof he presently acquainted the Magistrats, who with the Minister went to the Prison, and threatned the Guard, if they offered the least Disturbance to Persons in Custody: And the Minister on the Lord's day thereafter took, occasion in Sermon, to discover the Wickedness of that practice, as being against the Light of Nature, Scripture, and the just Laws of the Land; after this, we heard of no more Disturbance they met with. Now it was not till after this precaution used to prevent their Trouble, that *Janet Corphet* was Imprisoned, and from the time of her Imprisonment, till the time that she Confessed, which was some Ten, or Twelve days after; she was not in the Company with the rest, nor with the Guard, save one or two Days, but was alone in a separat Prison, and nothing to disturb her.

Now its Remarkable, that neither of these Persons who were ill us'd, of which *Janet Corphet* was none, did ever make any Acknowledgment to these persons

persons who us'd them ill, nor till some days after they were quite freed of this Trouble. And when they did Confess, it was to Magistrates and Minister, whom they own'd to be careful to preserve them, from such Abuses; nor did Magistrats or Minister ever use any Threatning to extort a Confession, or any other Argument but what the Gospel requires to be made use of, to bring Impenitent Sinners to a Confession of their Sins: From all which its evident, how false our Authors Account is.

The Pamphlet toward the middle of this Paragraph, tells us, *That Janet Corphet said to some Noblemen and Gentlemen, who came to see her, that all she had Confessed, &c. were lies, and tryed out, God forgive the Minister, &c.* To which its Answered, this Passage fell out a considerable time after their Confession, and also after the Story next mentioned, of which by and by, and before these Noblemen and Gentlemen came to see her, she had been prevailed with to retract her Confession, upon what Inducements, and by whose means, and what were their Motives, we forbear to mention, being unwilling to drop any thing, that may Reflect on the Honour of Persons, to whose Character we owe some regard, if not driven to it by plain necessity; However little regard they have to the Reputation of Magistrats and Minister.

As to what she said to the Persons first mention'd in the Pamphlet, no Regard is to be had to it, For beside that we want evidence of the Truth of it, since the few Persons that entered the Prison, allowed none of the Place to be present, but thrust forth one of the Magistrates, that was going in: This Woman, as said is, having Retracted her confession before this, was now in Expectation of obtaining her Liberty immediatly, by means of one of these Persons, and when that Person by whom they Expected to be Liberate, did formerly visite her, she made use of this as an Argument with *Isobel Adam*, and *Nicolas Lowson* to Engage them to Retract their Confessions, and deny all; which the said *Isobel Adam*, and *Janet Corphet* did Confess afterwards before Witnesses; and *Isobel Adam* in the Confession she made in presence of the Magistrates, which is attested by their Subscriptions, and is now Lodg'd in the hands of my Lord Advocat acknowledges, that *Janet Corphet* practis'd on her and *Nicolas*, and induced her to Retract: And here it is not amiss to observe, that the said *Isobel Adam* while she stay'd in *Pittenweem*, never Retracted or varied in her Confession, but this once upon the Inducement abovementioned, and she adher'd to her Confession before my Lord Advocat, one of the Lords of Justiciary, and several other Witnesses; It is true, she has since several times denied all, as to which my Lord Advocat in a Letter to the Magistrates of *Pittenweem* say's, *he was very well Satisfy'd, she is perverted:*

As to what *Janet Corphet* spake of the Ministers beating her with his Staff. It is the most abominable untruth, and there was never the least shaddow of Ground for it: The Minister never spoke with her alone, when he was dealing with her to Confess; nor dare any Person say, that ever they saw the Minister treat

treat her Rudely in the least, besides her former Confession was so free, and came so much of her self, as is evident from the Account above given, that there was no Temptation to it.

As to what she said of her desire to have her Denyal Conceal'd, the former Account given of the Conduct of Magistrates and Minister, Demonstrates she had no Ground for any such fear, as she is pretended to have been under.

Next in the close of this Paragraph, we are Entertain'd with a Story of what she said to the Laird of Glenagies and Mr. Bruce of Kinross. The best way to Satisfie the Reader about this, is to give a plain Account of Matter of Fact, these Gentlemen came in Company with the Earl of Rothes, a considerable time before the last mentioned Story tell out: When the Earl came to the Prison where *Isobel Adam*, *Janet Corphet*, and *Nicolas Lowson* were, a Neighbouring Minister who was occasionally there, and had never spoke with *Isabel Adam* before, said to her before these persons, and a great many other Witnesses; *Isabel*, *My Lord Rothes is come here and desires to be Satisfi'd, as to the Truth of these Reports that are going of you, we shall not propose any Questions to you, but it will be most Satisfying to hear you give an Account of the whole matter your Self.* Upon which she presently began, and gave an Exact and Coherent Account how she was d awn to the Sin of Witch-craft, and of all she had so often before Confessed, with much seeming Concernedness. When she had done, the Minister said, *Isabel, this is a very Strange Story, has any Person by Torture or Threatnings, or any other violence Tempted you to accuse your self of such horrid Crimes?* To which she Answered, *None has done it, but it was a Truth she told;* whereupon *Glenagies* Standing at the end of the Table, said, *Woman, are you thinking long to be Burnt?* To which she with great concern and readinets Replied instantly, *If it be GOD's will and Mans will. I desire it.* *Janet Corphet* did likewise own her Guilt to the Persons that Convers'd with her, as is Confessed in the Pamphlet, for its Granted by our Author, that the Gentleman said to her, *she had confessed as much as would in allibly Burn her;* to what purpose her Reply to this is mention'd, is not easy to understand, for nothing more can be infer'd from her saying *God forbid*, when they spoke of Burning to her, than that she was unwilling to be Burnt; And is this Strange! As to what is Subjoin'd,

That, to one of the two she said, that, from which he might rationally conclude, she had assurance from the Minister, her Life should not be taken. Here we have a taste of Authors Candour, and how well he deserves the Character he flumes to himself of a Gentleman, what Man might he not abuse at this Rate? And if Men will follow such Courtes, whose Reputation is safe? The Expression from which this Conclusion is alledged deducible is not mention'd, and so there is no access for any to canvass the Words, and Judge what Construction they will bear, or what Conclusion may rationally be deduced from them. This is a Convenient way of management for Persons that have a bad Cause, and whose pretended Consequences to the prejudice of others, cannot bear an Impartial Trial.

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As to the matter it self, it's a downright untruth, for as the Minister never threatned Death, so he never promised Life to any of them, he knew very well the power of Life and Death was not in his hand: Alter all, it's a Question whether the Gentleman he means, has really said so, we have only our Author's word for it, and any who reads this Paper, will be far from blaming us, if we refuse to take every thing he says for Truth. Many other stories have been told under these Gentlemens Names about what then occur'd, which seem plainly intended to wrong the Reputation of others, which we forbear to mention, because we had them only upon vulgar report; And we can scarcely believe that Gentlemen of any Candour or Sense, could have been guilty of abusing the World with so foul Misrepresentations. A candid and impartial Representation of what was really matter of Fact, and could easily be evicted to be so, would be sufficient to make the first reports ashamed of their dissingenuity, and such as intertain'd them of their foolish Credulity: But the stories are really so ridiculous, that the Persons concerned, think them rather worthy of contempt than a Reply; especially since we have no other ground to fix them upon any Author, but common Fame. On which we Judge it unchristian to lay the stress, as this Pamphlet every where doeth, or to mention what may in the least prejudice the Reputation of others. But as to our Authors story, the short of the matter is, the Minister must be blackned, or his design is lost.

The Third Paragraph of this Pamphlet tells us a story of what *Janet Corphet* said to Mr. *Robert Cook* Advocat, and Mr. *Ker* of *Kippilaw* a Writer to the Signer, to whom we believe she did in part deny her Guilt, but this was after she had been influenced by the means abovementioned to retract her Confession; whether she used these words mentioned by our Author, we cannot tell, nor is it material. What might be the meaning of them, our Author says he knows not, and we know not to what purpose he has mentioned them, unless it be to persuade the World, that she was so simple that no regard is to be had to any Confession she made. As to which, we Answer, when she desired to be admitted publicly to renew her Baptismal Vows; The Presbytry of *St. Andrews*, after they had Examined her a considerable time in the presence of a multitude of Witnesses, found her a Person of no contemptible knowledge, and none who know the Woman, and how sagacious she was beyond many of her rank, would believe that her saying, *That she did never renounce her Baptism, but to the Minister*, was any other thing but a mistake in Expression occasion'd by the confusion she was in, upon her being closely urged as to her Guilt by them: For she acknowledged to them that she was at a meeting in the *Loan* with the rest of the Witches. Whereas it's said the Minister threatned her. It's Replyed, that the Minister, at this time, or any other time, made use of no other threatnings, but such as every Minister of the Gospel is obliged to use when dealing with such Persons; and he dares the Author to give any evidence to the contrar.

In the close of this Paragraph, our Author tells us, *she was put in a low Prison,*
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out of which it was obvious that any Body could make an escape, and accordingly she made her escape that night. Here are but two assertions, and both of them False, for the Prison was the second story, and her escape was by breaking an old Iron Grate in the Window, nor was it that night after, that she broke the Prison, for it was on Friday these Gentlemen discours'd her, and on the Lord's Day at Night she broke Prison.

The Fourth Paragraph consists of two Assertions, and neither of them true, there was no search made for her, since the Magistrate thought it not probable she would Stay in the Town, only her Daughter Living in the place, was Exam'd about her accession to her Escape; who utterly denyed, she knew any thing of it, neither did they ever promise any Reward to such as should bring her back.

Our Author in his next Paragraph proceeds to his Account of the Murder. The Pamphlet has disjointed matters a little, and we must bring them together again, that we may give a distinct Reply. After he has told us, *That Mr. Gordon Minister of Lewchars sent Janet Corphet to Pittenweem and told the hail Story of the Murder.* He says in his last Page, *that its said Mr. Couper in a Letter to Mr. Gordon gave rise to it &c.* That the Reader may have a clear view of this, we must give a short Account of the matter of Fact, which we shall make good against this Author, or any that shall call it in Question. *Mr. Couper denies that ever he gave any Encouragement, by Word or Write, direct or indirect to Mr. Gordon, to send her to Pittenweem; nor did Mr. Couper Write his first Letter to Mr. Gordon, till after the Murder, nor did Mr. Gordon ever mention to Mr. Couper that he had a design to send her back.*

As for the Letter *Mr. Couper* wrote to *Mr. Gordon* after the Murder, it has never yet come into *Mr. Couper's* hands, but is Lodged in the hands of the Moderator of the Presbytrie of *St. Andrews*, It's manifest this which was the first Letter *Mr. Couper* wrote for many years to *Mr. Gordon*, could give no Rise to the sending of the Woman, or the Murder, since it was after both. As for what *Mr. Gordon* says in his Postscript *that he shall Conceal Mr. Couper's Letter; Mr. Gordon* has sent *Mr. Couper* a second Letter, Which any that pleases may see, wherein he declares, the reason of that Postscript was, not any thing he had found in the Letter; but that when *Mr. Couper* sent for the Letter to him, he was going to his Horse for *Edinburgh*, and had not got time to peruse it.

This Narrative shews how groundless our Author's uncandid Insinuations of the Rise of this Business are: Let us now see how he acquits himself in the Account of the Matter it self; there our Author has strangely jumbld Matters together. And therefore leaving his Confused Account, stult with Falshoods, we shall give a short and true Account of it.

Janet Corphet came to Town under Cloud of Night with two Men, and went straight to an Inn where her Daughter was Serving: After some Stay there, the two Men brought her to the Minister's House, who was Visiting a sick Child of one James Cook, a present Bailie, where his Servant came to him with Mr. Gordon's Letter; and as soon

soon as he had perused it, he bid his Servant go tell them, he would have nothing to do with her; but since they had brought her to the Town, let them take her to the Magistrates: Which Answer, two Men then present have attested under their hands. On this, the Men brought her to Bailie Cook's House, where the Minister was; and the Men meeting him coming down stairs, pressed him to take her off their hands, which he refused to do; but call'd the two next Magistrates, and advised them instantly to set her off safe out of the Town: On which the two Bailies sent for their Officer immediately; and the Minister went off straight to his own House, and saw no Appearance of a Rabble, nor did hear of it, till the Rabble had gone a considerable length; and after a little, he heard that the Woman was got safe out of their hands, and the Rabble dissipated, and he knew nothing of her death till the next Morning.

When the Officer came to the Magistrates, they, on Deliberation among themselves, Resolv'd to imprison her till the next Morning; and accordingly ordered their Officer to do it: And as the Officer was Executing the Magistrates Orders, the Rabble gather'd upon them, attack'd the Officer, and took the Woman from him, with which, it's said, he did not acquaint the Magistrates, that they might have taken other Measures for the Woman's Safety. But we forbear to say any more of the Magistrates Conduct, because that matter is at present under the Cognition of the Lords of Her Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council.

This Rabble did not flow from the Inclinations of the People of the Place, which is evident from the Peaceable and Safe Residence, two confessing Witches had, two Months time in the Place, since they were set at Liberty, but from an unhappy occasional concourse of a great many Strangers, some Englishmen, some from Orkney, and other parts who were forward in it, and have since taken guilt on them by their Flight.

It's needless to waste Paper, with a particular Account of the Actions of the Rabble, and the Treatment they gave her, which was indeed Barbarous. A naked Representation of what was Truth in it, was sufficient to make it odious; so that our Author might well have spared a great many Falshoods, with which he has stuff'd his Account, some of which we shall briefly notice.

It's false, that Janet Corphet when she passingly saw Mr. Cowper, as said is, moved any such Question; as that mention'd in this Pamphlet, nor did he give any such Answer, as can be instructed by Witnesses beyond all Exception; it's false, That she sought Lodging in Nicolas Lowlons, or any where else. or that any put her there, till after the Rabble had left her on the Sands: It's a most Abominable and Injurious Calumny, that never had any shadow of ground, that ever the Rabble came near to Mr. Cowper, spoke to him, or he to them, or that he saw any Appearance of a Rabble, when he was going home; And the place where the Rabble Murdered the Woman, lay at a great distance from Mr. Cowper's House, the nearest place where they first fell on her, being on the Sands, in the Harbour, was not within the Loudest cry of it, where he abode all the time, and Mr. Cowper heard, she was safe out of their Hands, and knew nothing of her Death till eight a Clock the

the next Morning, as has been said, whence it's evident, what our Author says, of the Rabble taking Encouragement from Mr. Cowper's Words to fall on her, is Groundless, untrue, and Malicious.

As to what the Pamphlet mentions of those of Mr. Cowper's Family going along with the Rabble; Mr. Cowper urged to have his Servants Examined among the first, and they have declared before the Magistrates, that they Stole out in a Clandestine way, that their Master might not know of it, and he indeed knew nothing of it, and they returned very quickly and made no stay: Nor do any of the Witnesses Examined insinuate any Accusation of their having the least access to any Injury she met with nor were they any other way concerned, than by Looking on a short while with some Hundred's of Spectators, and Mr. Bruce the late Episcopal Incumbent his Daughter Mary Bruce, and his Servant Maid when Examined by the Magistrates have declared, that they likewise were Onlookers at the Harbour where the Rabble began, and at Nicolas Lowson's Door; where it's said some few killed her, but they did never accuse Mr. Cowper's Women as Accessory. But it was not for our Authors purpose, to take notice of any concernment of those of Mr. Bruce's Family in the Rabble, though we dare boldly say, there was more Reason for mentioning them, than any of Mr. Cowper's Servants; nor is this strange, since Mr. Bruce (if we believe vulgar Report) our Authors best Informer, hath obliged the World with this Pamphlet; It's true one of Mr. Cowper's two Servants fore-said, being sent out late to the Post West-ward, out of her Curiosity went to Nicolas Lawsons door, to see what was come of the Woman, and she has declar'd before the Magistrate, what she saw, and knew of that matter, and return'd a Considerable time before it's said the Woman was Murdered.

The whole Story about the Womans Daughters is false, there are as many Untruths in it as Words, for it's well known there was but one of her Daughters in Town, and she came not near the Rabble, which she is ready to declare, Which our Author has retracted in the second Edition of the Pamphlet.

As to what concerns the Horse and Sledge, it's altogether false, there was no Horse or Sledge near her that night, next Morning a Horse and Sledge pass'd that way, to carry some Linnings to the Water, but she was dead a long time before, and there was no Rabble to call the Man, and make him drive over the Corps.

Again what our Author subjoins of the Rabble's Treatment of the Woman, viz. That they first found her at Nicolas Lowson's House, and that she was Killed on sight, when they drag'd her there again; is as ill grounded, as the rest of our Authors Assertions: For they found her not at Nicolas Lowson's House, and some of the Persons Examined have Declared, that after she was brought to that Door, she arose and put on Head Cloaths, and called to Nicolas Lowson to let her in; which if she had done, she, in all appearance, had met with no more Disturbance; but after this, we hear, that some few of the Rabble stole up secretly and Murdered her.

As to what our Author tells us in a different Character, of the Language of the Rable, we can give no Account of it; nor are we to Justify their words, more than their Actions, but we have shewed sufficiently that our Authors Informations, are not much to be Depended on.

As to the next Paragraph that mentions Mr. Couper's Letter as giving rise to it, we have Answer'd the Substance of it before, and our Author himself seems not to be over Confident of the Truth of it, for he introduces it with a Remarkable Preface, *Its said*; But if this string fail him, he has another to his Bow, whereby he is confident to drive the Arrow home to Mr Couper, for he tells us in the following Paragraph: *Its certain that Mr Couper took no notice of the Murder the next Lords day, which at least makes him guilty of Sinful silence*, Here is a home thrust indeed, but the happiness on't is our Author say's, and his certainties are much of a bind. Will it not absolve Mr. Couper with our Author, if he did in Prayer Re grate and Aggravat the Sin? If this will do, Mr. Couper is free to Appeal to his Hearers for the Truth of it; and besides the two next Lords day thereafter, did directly discover the Wickedness of Rables, which is yet Recent in the Memories of his Hearers. Where is then that Sinful silence our Author will have him certainly Guilty of?

Our Author in his last Paragraph save one, expresses his Confidence that *the Government will Examine the matter to the Bottom; and lay no stress on what the Magistrates of Pittenweem, or Minister, will say to Smooth over the matter*. We are not against the Governments Examining the matter to the bottom, and we are much perswaded, and on better Grounds, that the Wisdom and Justice of the Government, will lay no Stress on the Malicious Informations of one, who, to incense the Government against them, has abused the World with an Account Composed of a great many Palpable untruths, bold and Groundless Aspersions, and Spiteful Insinuations. The Minister is sufficiently vindicated by what is above said, and we hope the Magistrates will be able to give such an Account of themselves as may Satisfy the Government.

This Pamphlet is Concluded with a Prayer in which the Magistrates and Minister could cordially Join, if no more were meant by it, than the words abstracted from the foregoing Relation do narrowly import: But when its considered as it Stands Related to the foregoing Narrative, any may see that it's design'd to put the Cop-stone on all the black Aspersions he has thrown on the Magistrates, and Minister; Before, he has said what his own prejudice, and that of his Informers Suggested against their *Practice*, here, he drives the matter further by an uncharitable Insinuation, that they may own *Principles*, that have a Tendency to such Practices as he has falsely Charged them with; and to make this Suggestion the more Solemn, he has addressed it to the GOD of Truth, who hates such untruths as this Paper is filled with, and has Discharged Persons of that Temper, which breaths in this uncharitable Prayer, to approach his Altar. It's not difficult to Conjecture, at whose Principles this is Levelled, and the Per-

sons concern'd, who we take to be all, who own the present Government of Church or State, Espouse no principles that have the least Tendency to Favour Rables, or any such disorder; nor are they afraid to compare Principles or Practices in this Regard with the Author or the Party he seems to Favour; If we thought our Authors Example worth following, we might have given Representations of Rables, not a few no less odious, but more true; and that in a time of a fixed Regular Government; In which perhaps our Author and some of his Friends may think themselves concern'd: But we Scorn to Trace his Steps in so dirty a way: Let those who need, use such mean Shifts, and draw what inconsequential Conclusions they please, from Occurrences that have happened among all Parties, and in the best Regular Governments.

It's needless for this Pamphleter to excuse himself with the pretence of misinformation; One who pretends to give the World a *Just Account of Matters*, wherein the Reputation and Safety of others are concern'd, should have taken more care about his Information. It's unworthy of the Civility of a Gentleman, the Candour of a Man of Common Honesty, or the Charity of a Christian, to take up illgrounded Reports of our Neighbours, much more is it so, to spread them in Print; telling the World some of them are certain, and giving no better grounds for others of them, *than that it's said*. How would it please our Author, if we should now Print a great many odious stories about him, upon the Authority of a bare *hear say*? Would he not think himself very ill us'd to have such Calumnies thrown on his Name, by no body knows who, on the doubtful *say* of Nameless Authors? I believe he would think he had a right to demand of the Government something more, than that meerly they should have no regard to such Reports; Or lay little stress on what the Publishers of them would say to smother over the matter. Such as have any sense of Honour, regard their Reputation, as much as their Life, and to murder Mens Fames at this Rate, more especially that of Magistrates and Ministers, is not more justifiable than to Rable them, and have not we as good reason to pray to be delivered, from Principles that have a tendency to such practices, as he had.

Having dispatched this first Pamphlet, we shall likewise briefly call to an Account the other, which is prefixed to the second Impression of this Letter, and is Entitled, *An Answer of a Letter from a Gentleman in Fife to a Nobleman*.

This Second Letter vigorously pursues the same malicious design with the former, and has been written, either by the same Author, or one of the like Unchristian Spirit. He begins his Letter with a Complement, to the Nobleman he writes to, in which we are not concerned: But since this Author has been so kind, as to oblige us with his Judicious Observations on the Magistrates and Ministers Conduct; in requitance, we shall make this one, on his Compliment: If this Nobleman did him Honour in desiring an Account of this Murder from him, he has made a sorry return, in abusing the World and him, with such a Scandalous, and disingenuous Account of matters of Fact. He refers this Noble Friend

to the Pamphlet we have already Examined, Commending its Author for his Integrity and Information. How much ground there is for this Commendation, we have shewed above. But it is no ill Jest, to hear this Gentleman tell the World, *That the Writer of the foregoing Pamphlet, was well Informed,* and yet in the next line to acquaint us, *that he had his Information from the General Talk.* What he adds of the *General belief* of what is contain'd in that Pamphlet, it is an abominable Untruth. All unbiass'd Persons who know any thing of the matter, are sufficiently satisfied of the Falshood of the Reports blown about by that Scandalous Libel.

In his Second Paragraph, he proposes his design, which is to *give a Narrative of the Magistrats and Ministers unwarrantable Imprisoning, and barbarous treating of the poor Women.* This it seems he looks on as wanting to compleat his design of the former Pamphlet: We shall follow, where he leads the way, and I am jealous before we have done with him, we shall make it evident, that he is guilty of more barbarity towards the Magistrats and Minister, than they to the Women.

He tells this Nobleman, *he needs not trouble him with a Character of Patrick Mortoun, who is sufficiently known for a Cheat.* One, by reading this would think *Patrick Mortoun* had been Try'd, and Convicted of Roguery and Imposture, in this matter. This is a heavy Charge against the poor Boy, and if our Author is not able to give very good proof for what he says, the Impartial Reader must look on this as a malicious Calumny; yea, were it true, we would desire our Author to satisfy us by his next, how he will reconcile his practice in this, with the Principles of the Christian Religion. Does Christianity allow Men to load their Neighbours with the blackest Crimes, and that *publickly in Print* with such confidence and assurance, till they be found guilty by the Judge Competent?

If this clear sighted Author had been so kind, as to lend the Magistrats and Minister of *Pittenweem*, his Spectacles, they had acted a more Christian Part, and had brought this Rogue to a Trial found him such, and taken care to have him punished in an Exemplary way. And they do promise this Author, or any other who will undertake it, they shall improve their Discoveries to the utmost against him.

But after all, we see no ground to conclude him an Imposture, we are not concerned to Justifie every thing he said, or did, under his Trouble, Persons of greater Sense and Judgement, when under the like trouble have been guilty of many Extravagancies both in word and deed. But as to the Principal things in the Boy's case, we could never, nor yet can see any Reason to conclude them Trick and Cheat.

Had he been a Rogue, we cannot see what could have induced him to attempt, to impose on the World, so much to his own Disadvantage, and that of his Fathers Family.

Nor do we see how he was Capable to carry on such an Imposture, for so long

long a tract of time, under the eyes of so many Curious Observers from all quarters, without being Convincingly Discovered.

Beside, Her Majesty's Advocat by order of the Privy Council, called him over in September last, and examined him, before one of the Lords of the Justiciary Court, and several other Witnesses.

And of late, again, by a new Order he was called over to *Edinburgh*, and Examined by a Committee of Her Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, where the Right Honourable the Earl of *Rothes*, Lord Privy Seal presided, and after a strict Examination of him two several Diets; he was Dismissed, without being convict of Imposture. Now is it credible if there had been such Evidence of Imposture, as our Author pretends, that these Discerning Persons, could have overlooked it, or suffer the Cheat to pass without Exemplary Punishment?

Moreover, we leave it to any Impartial person, that peruses the short hint of the Boy's Trouble we have given, if it be probable that all this was Trick and Cheat; The Account of the rise of this Trouble, was Justified by *Beatrix Laing* her self, and that in part before she was Imprisoned, but more fully afterwards: Again how came he to know where and when the Witches had their Meetings, and who were present? and how came the Witches in their Confessions to Stumble on the same Account, and so Justify their Accuser? Or were they in a Consert together, the Witches acting a part to carry on their own Ruin.

Besides, it were easie to Demonstrate, that he could not deceive the Spectators, in the surprising particulars above mentioned, some of which could not possibly be done by Trick; but it belongs to our Author to Account for all these things others did, and do think still were Extraordinary in his Case; if our Author will convincingly prove that all these things were Cheat, we shall yield to Light: But if he obtrude his Says on us, we crave to be Excused. If this Author will oblige the World with a Rational Solution of these *Phaenomena*, we shall be glad to see it; but the Truth on't is, they who are wont to talk most confidently, of accounting for such Extraordinary Appearances from Natural Causes, are such as understand very little about Nature.

But to proceed with our Author, he tells us next, That it was one Patrick Mortouns Accusation allenerly that the Magistrats and Minister did Imprison the Women. This so far from having a shadow of Truth, that none were Imprison'd on his simple Delation, and some were Imprisoned without any Delation from him. As to what he says of *Drunken Fellows Torturing the Women*, we have Answered it before, and shall not Trouble the Reader with a Repetition. After this Story of their being Tormented, he concludes this Paragraph thus, *This Cruel Usage made some of them be so wise, as to Acknowledge every Question that was asked them.* Leaving our Author to please himself with the Salt of his Malicious Scoff; To matter we Answer, It is altogether false, their Confessions were Extorted by Torment as was said already. 2dly. It is false

that they acknowledged every question, as he lays, for some they Refused, other things they Confessed freely, as persons Ingenious are wont to do; Isabel Adam would never own that she was with the rest at their meeting in the Lone, tho' she confest that she was at M'greigours House; ~~Isabel~~ Wallace owned that she was at that meeting in the Lone, but Refused that she was at M'greigours; as likewise none of the confessing Witches did ever delate Isabel Adam to be at the meeting in the Lone.

Next he tells us some of the more foolish, continued as the Minister said, hardened in the Devils Service such as, White Jack, Wallace, Patrick and others; All which save the first were ordered for Stocks, where they lay several Weeks. To which it's Answer'd. 1st. Whereas our Author insinuates that all these Persons did still deny, it is false, for ~~Isabel~~ Wallace did freely confess her Compact with the Devil, and Renouncing her Baptism to the Devil, before several Gentlemen we can Name, and owned her being at the meeting in the Lone with the Witches, and that Nicolas Lowson did take her thither; but all that knew any thing of the Story knew why she is shuff'd in among these that never confess'd, of which if occasion Require we shall give a more particular Account afterward. 2^y. It's false also that ever ~~Isabel~~ Wallace was put in the Stocks or was any way disturb'd. 3^y. The Reason why some of them were put in the Stocks was their offering violence to Isabel Adam for her delating of them, particularly Thomas Brown and Beatrix Laing after she had Confessed. Not was any of them above a Day or two in the Stocks. Could any in a few words have Compacted more Lies?

In the following Paragraph, the Minister is directly accus'd of Incouraging Patrick Morton in carrying on the Cheat by Reading to him the case of Baggarrans Daughter. In Answer to which, we shall give a short but Candid Account of matter of Fact; In the Month of May last, the Minister with a Preacher, and a great many other People attending all Night in the Room where Patrick Morton lay, and he lying mean while, in a swooning fit, which was then tryed by Exquisite Punching, the Minister and Probationer falling into some discourse about Baggarrans Daughter took out the Book, and for their own Satisfaction Read only two Sentences and Stopt. Several weeks after, when the Minister was again attending in the Night time, the Lad being insensible, the Minister for his own diversion, Read the Preace and some part of the Process against the Witches; but had no Reason to think he heard any thing, but on the contrary: And it is to be observed, when the Committee of the Privy Council, did accurately Examine the Boy, in Reference to this Story, he still declared he never heard anything of Baggarrans Daughter's case Read. By this Account it appears how unjust this Charge is against the Minister; the Minister, whatever this Author Suggests to the Contrary, is as far as he can be, from any inclination to Countenance and Incourage such Impositions, nor is there the least shadow of Ground, to think this had any influence on the Boys trouble, or did Incourage him to Imitation; for beside what has been above hinted, before this was Read in the House, all that was most Extraordinary in his case had fall'n out, Nor was there any considerable Liknelis betwixt his case & hers.

After this he tells us, *The Boy accused for his Tormentors the most considerable Persons Wives in the Town.* The Falshood of this has been above evinced; and we challenge this Author to Name any one Person of Note in the Place, or else where, whom the Boy accused of Tormenting him: And the Magistrats and Minister, knew none he accused whom they durst not have Imprisoned; if they had seen cause: Our Author's Inference, that it was only the weakest that went to the walls, is Malicious and False; the most considerable accused by him, though not meerly on his Delation, were apprehended: And we shall only add this one Remark, That if Patrick Mortoun had not been weak, our Author durst not have treated him at such a rate: The story about my Lord Rothes, has been sufficiently Answer'd already. That this gave any turn to the Lad's trouble is altogether False, My Lord Rothes came to see the Lad on the sixteenth day of June, and the Lad did not begin to recover till the beginning of August, nor was he able to go out till the beginning of September.

As to the Baillies emptying the Prisons of them, the occasion of it was thus; The Women after they had been practised on, began to retract their Confessions, to tell any more of this story will no be for the Credit of our Author's Friends.

What he says of their obliging them to pay Eight Pounds Scots to the Town Officer, is many ways False; It's false they were ordered by the Magistrats to pay such a Sum, it's false that they pay'd all alike, it is also untruth, that any of them gave what they had provided for their winding sheets. Nicolas Lawson one of the confessing Witches, her Husband voluntarily gave a small piece of unbleached Linnen to the Officer for his Fees, and this all the ground for the story of their winding sheets.

And the Minister was so far from being concerned in this, that he challenged the Officer, for taking this piece of Cloath. Now we are come to our Author's remarkable Observations, the first Observation is, *The Baillies and Minister, sent and brought severals of these Women from Places without their Jurisdiction; one from Anstruther, and another from the Country at six miles distance.*

In Answer to this Observation, we shall give a short and Faithful Account of matter of Fact, for which we shall be Answerable. The Woman brought from Anstruther was one Mrs. White an Inhabitant of Pittenweem, who through fear of being Apprehended, fled thither to her Daughters House; This Woman whose cause is now so warmly espoused by some, with no advantage to their Reputation, and who is now Insisting against the Magistrats, in a Process for wrongous Imprisonment, has been for many Years, a Person of very bad Fame, some Eighteen Years ago, she pursued a Woman before the Session, in Mr. Bruce the late Episcopal Incumbents time, for calling her a Witch, and Succumbing in the Probation, Mr. Bruce urged her to be Reconciled with the Woman, she obstinately refused, using most Unchristian and Revengful Expressions, which are to be seen in the Session Register: Since the Revolution she desired Admission to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, which was denied, because she still refused to be Reconciled to
that

that Woman; her Scandalous carriage in refusing to Co-habit with her Husband to this day, who is a sober honest Man, is generally known. This Woman being Accused by the Boy as one of his Tormentors, and Delated by two confessing Witches, and other presumptions of her Guilt, the Magistrats, one morning sent their Officer to the Magistrats of *Austruther*, desiring them on these grounds to send Mrs. *White* to them, and the grounds of her Imprisonment were sent in write to her, in her Daughter Mrs. *Lindsays* House, and she being brought to *Pittenweem*, the two Women which Delated her, were confronted with her, in presence of the Magistrats, a great many Gentlemen and Ministers, where they did accuse her to her Face, and charged her particularly with being at a meeting in the *Loan* with the Devil and the Witches, and gave some binding tokens to convince her: By all which it appears, how little ground there is to accuse the Magistrats for Invading their Neighbours Jurisdiction; or load the Minister with any concernment in the matter.

As to the other instance, of one brought to *Pittenweem*, at six miles Distance, this was the young Woman *Isobel Adam*: about the middle of May, one *Alexander M'grigor* delated her, for an attempt to Murder him in his House in the night time, with several others whom he knew not; and there being some Surmises of other Presumptions of Witchcraft, against her; The Minister hearing she was occasionally in the Town, called for her, and advised her before her Father, if Innocent, to take proper Measures for her own Vindication, which she undertook to do, and promised to return for that end on Advertisement, which her Father engaged to give. The noise about her still Increasing, her Father was desired according to promise, to call her to the place; which he declined, growing Jealous of her Guilt, on which the Minister Advertis'd her, but in case she Refused, a Letter was sent to be delivered to the Gentleman in whose Ground she liv'd, desiring him to send her. So soon as the Advertisement was given, she came Voluntarily, to her Father's House in *Pittenweem*; and to there was no occasion for Force.

When she came, she Confessed her Converse with the Devil at *Thomas Adamson's* House, on the first Day of January 1704; she was confronted with *M'greigour*, and he accused her of the abovementioned attempt on him, which she then Refused; on which she was Imprison'd, and the two following days, she did with Tears and more than ordinary Concern, make a free and large Confession.

She told, *Beatrix Laing* foresaid, a Confessing Witch, had been dealing with her, to Engage in her service, which she refused; and that sometime thereafter, this *Beatrix* came for her, and desir'd her to go along to her House, when she came there, they sat down at the fire, and she saw a Man in Black Cloaths, with a Hat on his head, sitting at the Table; and *Beatrix* said to her, since you will not engage with me, here is a Gentleman that will Fee you; whereupon he told her, he knew she was Discontented with her Lot, and if she would serve him, he promised she should want for nothing, to which she yielded to serve him, and he came forward and Kiss'd her, and she said, he was fearsome like, and his Eyes Sparkled like Candle; on which she knew he was the Devil.

Again

Again she told, That being Employ'd to Spin in Thomas Adamson's House in Pit-inweem, while she was lying awake in her Bed, in the Night time, The Devil appearing to her, where she did expressly renounce her Baptism to the Devil, by putting her Hand on her Head, and the other to her Feet, the other Maid lying in the Bed with her, being at the time Asleep, as the Maid declar'd before the Session. About a fortnight after this, Beatrix Laing came to Visit her, and asked her, if she had met with the Gentleman? she Answered, she had, and also engaged with him, on which Beatrix said, I have then got my Work wrought, and went away. And she Confess'd, she came to that Meeting at M'greigours with the Devil, and several Witches, viz. Beatrix Laing, Nicolas Lowson, Janet Corphet, Thomas Brown, and several others she knew not, designing to Murder M'greigour; But since the Man wakned and pray'd to God for himself, they could not do it. She Confess'd also, Converse with the Devil at other times. All which is in her two Confessions Sign'd by the Magistrats, and Transmitted to Edinburgh: As also My Lord Advocate, in his Letter to the Magistrats, says, she freely own'd her Guilt before him, and when afterwards she deny'd, says, he was fully satisfied, she was perverted. Now we desire to know what this Author can quarrel in the Magistrats or Minister's Conduct, in this Matter.

As to the Pamphleters Second and Third Observation, they have been fully Answered above. As for what he adds about Ministers Refunding the Imprisoned Woman's Money sevenfold. We find the Author very charitable on other Mens Purses, but when the Magistrats and Minister, design'd to bestow their Charity, they will choote more obliging Objects: And the Lords of Her Majesty's Privy Council understands themselves better, than to take their measures as to what is Just from the daring Prescriptions of this Author.

Our Authors 4th Observation is of a piece with the former, Thomas Brown was accused by the Lad, and Delared by three Confessing Witches, as being Accessory to the attempt on M'greigour; its false he was Straved, for his Daughter brought him his Dyer punctually. Our Authors Fears of more Murders are altogether Groundless, as has been clear'd above, and we Appeal to all Men of Candor, whither this Authors Impudent and unjust Accusation against Magistrats and Minister of Murdering Thomas Brown, deserves not Severer Punishment than any thing he can charge them with.

The 5th Observation tells us, The Baillies justified the Murder, by denying Christian Burial. The Baillies gave no order thereabout; as for Thomas Brown, his own Son in Law, with some others Buried him: Our Author by his next may prove, that Janet Corphet a Woman that had so frequently, and so solemnly Confess'd the Renunciation of her Baptism to the Devil, deserved Christian Burial.

Our Author in his last Observation tell us, That the Minister all along Exercised more of the Civil Authority than any of the Baillies, which he pretends to clear by one instance, which is this, That the Magistrats, in the Account of the Murder

*Murder they gave in to the Privy Council, told they had Imprisoned several of the Murderers; and that after they left the Town the Minister set them at Liberty. The matter of Fact is this in short, Application being made to have the Persons in Prison for the Rable Bail'd, the Bailies forgetting to Consult their Town Clerk the Night before they went off, came in the Morning to the Minister about five of the Clock, about other Affairs, and being loath to disturb their Clerk so Early, he being Aged and Sickly, desired the Minister to Consult him thereanent; which he Refused to do: Whereupon they call'd the Town Officer, and ordered him to acquaint the Clerk, that if they could be bailed in Law, he should do it, and the Officer was Ordered on this, to Liberate them; as also; they desired the Minister to attest to the Clerk, that they had given this Order to their Officer, which accordingly he did, after the Officer spoke to the Clerk, and was no further concerned in the Matter. Now we challenge this Author to shew wherein the Minister stepped beyond his Sphere, in all this? But if our Author miss the Minister, he thinks he is sure to hit the Bailies; and therefore adds, *That if the Bailies Ordered before they went off to Liberate the Prisoners, they were mightily in the wrong in giving an Account to the Privy Council, which they knew to be false; We desire to know where the falshood of their Account Lyes, it was; not false they had Imprison'd them, it was not false that they left them in Prison; Nor was it false they were still Legally secure, being only Liberat on Bail; Besides it's false, that the Bailies in the Information call'd them the Murderers of the Woman, they were only Delated by the Witnesses, as being among the Rable. This Account we have given, we shall Justify by unexceptionable Witnesses if he dare attack it; But to speak a little Closser with our Author about the Justice of this Observation: With what Conscience durst our Author accuse the Minister of exercising not only the Civil Authority, but more of it than any of the Bailies, and continuing to do so? What a sore-head must he have to offer this one Scandalous instance as a proof of so bale a Calumny. The Minister positively deny's that in any one instance he invaded the Office of the Civil Magistrat; can this Author prove it.**

Our Authors Conclusion is Remarkable; *My Lord this is not the Tenth part, of what may be said on this Subject, I hope some other Person will be more particular: We easily allow that if Men will assume a Liberty to Lye, to Slander, and Mis-Represent, they may blot Paper and abuse the World with Volumes: But if our Author had confin'd himself to Truth, instead of Abusing the World with ten times as many Lyes, the most part of this Pempheet had been spared.*

It were tedious here to Relate at length the many Artifices used to smother this discovery of Witch-craft, Strange Methods have been try'd both at *Pittenweem* and *Edinburgh*, with the Witches, to make them Retract their Confessions. The Boy has been Represented as a Notable Imposture, the Ma-

Magistrates and Minister have been traduced as Encouragers & supporters of the Cheat: Upon what views and Inducements no body knows, nor can the spreaders of these Reports condescend on any colourable Inducement. The persons who seem'd any way convinced that there was Witchcraft in the case, not upon the trifling ground, some gave out they believed it, but from the joint Consideration of the Witches Confession, and the whole tract of the Boy's Trouble, as cloathed with all the particular Circumstances, have been exposed as Foolish and Credulous Men, who built their perswasion on ridiculous Grounds, whereon they never laid the least stress.

After the Boy was recovered, and going Abroad again, a Picture was Clandestinely conveyed into his bed on the Lord's Day by Persons, who, it seems, meant first to draw the Credulous vulgar into a conceit that this was the Picture, whereby the Boy was Tormented, that afterwards they might have a fair occasion to expose them for their Credulity; and rivet the suspicion of the Boys being a Cheat. When this took not, some gave it out, that the Minister had placed it there, which is a Story so Ridiculous that it cannot take with any person of Sobriety or Sense, and perhaps had he a great mind to it, he could find the Authors of this Sorry trick.

And of late again a certain person, who has done his utmost to stifle the whole Discovery of the Witchcraft did call out of Prison, the abovementioned *M'greigour*, and threatned him with the severest Punishment, *If he did not deny his Accusation of Isobel Adam*, which we are able to prove by sufficient Testimonies.

Further, We know who told a certain Gentleman in the Neighbourhood, then at *Edinburgh*, that if he would discourse *Isobel Adam* then liberat, she would show him what Rogues and Villains the Magistrates and Minister were, In practising on the Woman, and alluring her with promises, to accuse many Honourable and Worthy Ladys, and that they named them expressly to her, which the Gentleman consented to hear, and accordingly she was sent to him, by this Persons order, who, it seems, knew well where to find her, for his designs, when she came, she told her Story in such sort, that the Gentleman declared to the Minister, he saw evidently it was put in her Mouth; As for the matter of this Calumny, we think it not worth the while to refute it at large: When the Bailies and Minister Converſed with her, they were never alone, we dare appeal to the Author of the Pamphlet, whether it be Credible that they, who, he says, *had not the Courage to attack the considerable Mens Wives in the Town*, would take such measures, to exasperat Persons of Quality, this is so far from being true, that the Minister did from the Pulpit discharge the People to ask the Woman questions anent any: And if it were requisite, the Minister could give his Oath, That he never heard any of these Worthy and Honour-

Honourable Persons Names mention'd to the Woman, or the Lad, or ever directly or indirectly accused by them; but all these Stories were spread on design to inrage Gentlemen, and to stifle this Discovery. When our Author or his Friends are pleas'd to Publish his ten parts more, of which he boasts, we shall then deal a little more plainly.

But we forbear now any particular Account of these, and others of the same Alloy, because we love not to touch the Reputation of others unless we are driven to it in Self Defence. But if necessary, which has extorted this Account, oblige us to be particular, we shall not spare to Narrate the Truth, and condescend without respect of Persons, on the Practices, Authors of them, Inducements, and the particular Circumstances, that are necessary to set them in a full Light. For all which we are able to give better Vouchers, than our Author's Say's.

And to conclude, whatever the Inconsiderate and Atheistical *Would-be-wits* of this Age may dream, Protestant Ministers of the Gospel, have no Temptation to be more easy than other Men in their belief, about particular stories of Witchcraft, or to obtrude them upon others, their Faith of the General Truth that there are Devils, and Witches, stands on no weaker Bottom, than the Faithful Word of GOD. Nor was it ever called in Question by any Persons that were sound in the Christian Religion, and the Truth of God needs no lie to support it. And this Truth is Safe, whatever come of this or any other particular Instance, when any such occurrences fall out in Ministers Congregations, it were more for there ease to suppress such Discoveries, by which they cannot propose so much as a shew of advantage to themselves, but on the contrar, such trouble, as might have, and has made them to be commiserat by generous Persons, that neither favour them nor their way; which the Minister of *Pittenweem* as he projected from the beginning, has found to his sad Experience.

It's like some may wonder, why a full and circumstantial Account, of the Witches Confessions, and this Boy's Trouble, has not been offered to the Publick: But waving other reasons, not a few, of this Omission; it's thought that there is no great need of this. Many well attested Narratives of try'd Instances of this sort, have been published of old and late, which are sufficient, to satisfy Persons, Sober, Ingenious, and Judicious; and to render the Atheistical pretenders of this or former Ages, who from their unbelief of the general Truth, in reference to the Being of Devils, or Witches, call in question all particular instances, without making any difference, altogether without Excuse: And there is no great hope of convincing by such Accounts, however attested, such as believe not *Moses*, the Prophets, nor even the SON, by whom GGD hath spoken to us in these last Ages: We know that the latest and best Attested Narratives of this sort, have been boldly called in Question, by many little *pretenders to Reason* in privat Companies. But when they have assumed the courage publickly, and in Print to overthrow

throw the Evidence of the matters of Fact, or offered a rational Account of them upon other Principles, there will then and not till then, be need of adding new instances, and Viindicating the former. This hitherto they have not thought fit to do, tho' they have been challenged oftner than once. Nor dare they attempt it, while the Witnesses, and Publishers of these Accounts are alive to speak for themselves; And while this is not done, the idle Cheat wherewith these Quacks in Philosophy entertain themselves, and abuse the simple, behind the Curtain, deserve not the regard of any Person of Sobriety.

F I N I S.